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article of the kind, subject to the inspection of two inspectors resident here, appointed by the government, whose approval and brands have to be made and marked on the barrels before they are received, so as to preclude any possibility of deception in the quality of the article. The prime pork put up for the government is composed of fifty pieces, weighing four pounds each. To supply materials for these pieces requires twenty-five shoulders, with the leg cut off close to the breast. Included with these twenty-five pieces are usually two rump pieces, cut also into four pound pieces. The prime mess pork, packed this season was contracted for at high prices, and it is said that it has been of a very superior quality, most of it packed in this city having run thirty pieces fine and twenty pieces coarse, or shoulder pieces, without any rump pieces at all. Some of it contained, as usual, two rumps to each barrel. The pork has been salted and then cured for ten days before packing, and then packed up with more than the usual quantity of salt, and great care has been used in the whole business from beginning to end. Usually, packers in this country, of prime mess, do not use saltpetre, and instead of cutting off the leg at the breast of the shoulder, only cut it off at the first joint. All packed closely and rigidly inspected before delivery and shipment. The magnitude of this French contract may be judged of when we consider that the price of prime mess pork in this market is now from \$16 a \$17 per barrel, and scarce at that. The 100,000 barrels, at \$16 per barrel, will amount to the large sum of \$1,600,000. We have no means of knowing on what terms the contracts were put out, but believe them to have been at higher rates, in most cases, than the figures given above.

The cotton market was active yesterday, with sales of about 5,000 bales, the market closing firm. Among the transactions was a line of 1,500 bales of St. Mark's fair middlings at 10c. The accounts by telegraph from the South also represented prices firm, with pretty active markets. Flour was unchanged and firm, with moderate sales of State, Western and Canadian white. Southern was in good demand. Canadian prime white wheat sold at \$1.02. Corn was tolerably active, without change of importance. Prices ranged from 64c a 65c, 68c a 70c for all kinds. Among the sales was a prime cargo of Johnson's fancy white North Carolina, at 70c. Pork was dull, with sales of mess at \$15.75 a \$15.81, and prime at \$15. Sugars were quiet and prices unchanged. Coffee sold pretty freely, including a cargo of 2,000 bags Rio at 11c a 11 1/2c, and a cargo of Java was sold at auction, particulars of which are given in another column. Freight to Liverpool were rather better for grain, with engagements of some 20,000 bushels at 7c a 7 1/2c in bags, chiefly at the latter figure.

The Unconstitutionality of the Prohibitory Liquor Law—Final Decision by the Court of Appeals.

The final decision by the highest judicial tribunal of the State declaring the Prohibitory Liquor Law unconstitutional, has something more in it than the mere settlement of an important question of legislative power. The law itself was an embodiment of the opinions and resolutions of a large class of the people of this State; a class who deemed themselves the peculiar guardians of public morals, and as the apt instructors of a majority of their fellow-citizens. With such men, experience was of no account—the rights of property and of persons were nothing—customs, habits and even great commercial interests, were thrust violently aside to give operation to legislative expedients and moral distinctions—society was to be legislated into good character and conduct. The representatives of the people became their instructors, and assumed to enforce moral reforms by criminal denunciations and infamous punishments.

In a country where the people constitute the primary source of power, and where government is instituted to preserve social order—where special and limited authority is given to the Legislature—that body forgetting its duties and transcending its constitutional limits, has undertaken, not only to be an instructor and teacher, but also to exercise the most oppressive and arbitrary jurisdiction over property, even to the extent of directing its confiscation. When the moral condition of the country is made to depend upon legislation—when reforms can only be effected through the operation of penal statutes—when the police becomes our only protection—it will be a sad day for the State.

The object of laws is not to make money, but to effect distribution between capital and labor, in matters of intercourse between man and man. In addition to this feature of legislation all governments have their penal statutes for the punishment of crime. Lately the excessive wisdom of a few fanatics has devised an intermediate office of legislation undertaking to guard, protect and improve the morals of men.

It is worthy of note that in the State and in the nation, there has been a growing legislative demoralization, and these are the sources whence has emanated the Prohibitory Liquor laws—laws based avowedly upon the purpose of enforcing moral reforms.

Now what are the fruits which have been reaped in this insane crusade against the rights of individuals and of property? Look at the effect of the law upon the people and upon the institutions of the State. See all the inferior judiciary dragged into the arena of politics, and their decisions made to conform to the friends and the opponents of the statute in question. See that statute enforced in one city and totally rejected in another. See property seized and business destroyed in one town, while trade in the same article is freely conducted in another. See judges appointed to office under the degrading and utterly disqualifying pledges of support or opposition to a public statute! See the pulpit, filled with extemporizing laudations of partisan schemes, and violent crusades urged from the very sanctuaries against men and business! Are these legitimate fruits of good government, or evidence of the propriety of such measures? Do these things signify morality? Do they inculcate respect for law and for social order? Do they evince wisdom and moderation in our legislation? Is this the way to secure respect for the constitution and its guaranties?

The Court of Appeals has now pronounced the Prohibitory Liquor Law unconstitutional. The lesson, we repeat, ought not to be lost. But what hope have we that the legislative outrage involved in the passage of that law will not be repeated in some other shape? The country is filled with a great class of insane or idolatrous Nigger worshippers. It was they, in the main, that exacted and enacted the Liquor law. They have been defeated by the conservative power of the Judiciary. The constitution stands in their way; and now the campaign will be urged against that compact.

Never before, in the history of this country, has there existed so great a necessity for the exercise of wise conservative councils. The decision of the Court of Appeals is but the beginning of the end.

Protection to Ocean Steamers—Water-Tight Compartments.

The lesson taught by the terrible catastrophe of the John Rutledge should not be lost. That vessel, after having been several days in the ice, and notwithstanding a watch the vigilance of the danger, ran foul of an iceberg at 10 o'clock A. M. on a February morning, and went down on the evening of the same day. To judge from the report of the sole survivor and the language of the log, no precaution could have averted the mishap. It had been apprehended, expected, for days; all the crew and passengers were constantly on the alert; every one knew that a collision might occur at any moment; the ship was full manned, her discipline was good, her crew efficient, her passengers ready to work, her captain apparently equal to the emergency; yet, in spite of all, she struck—str